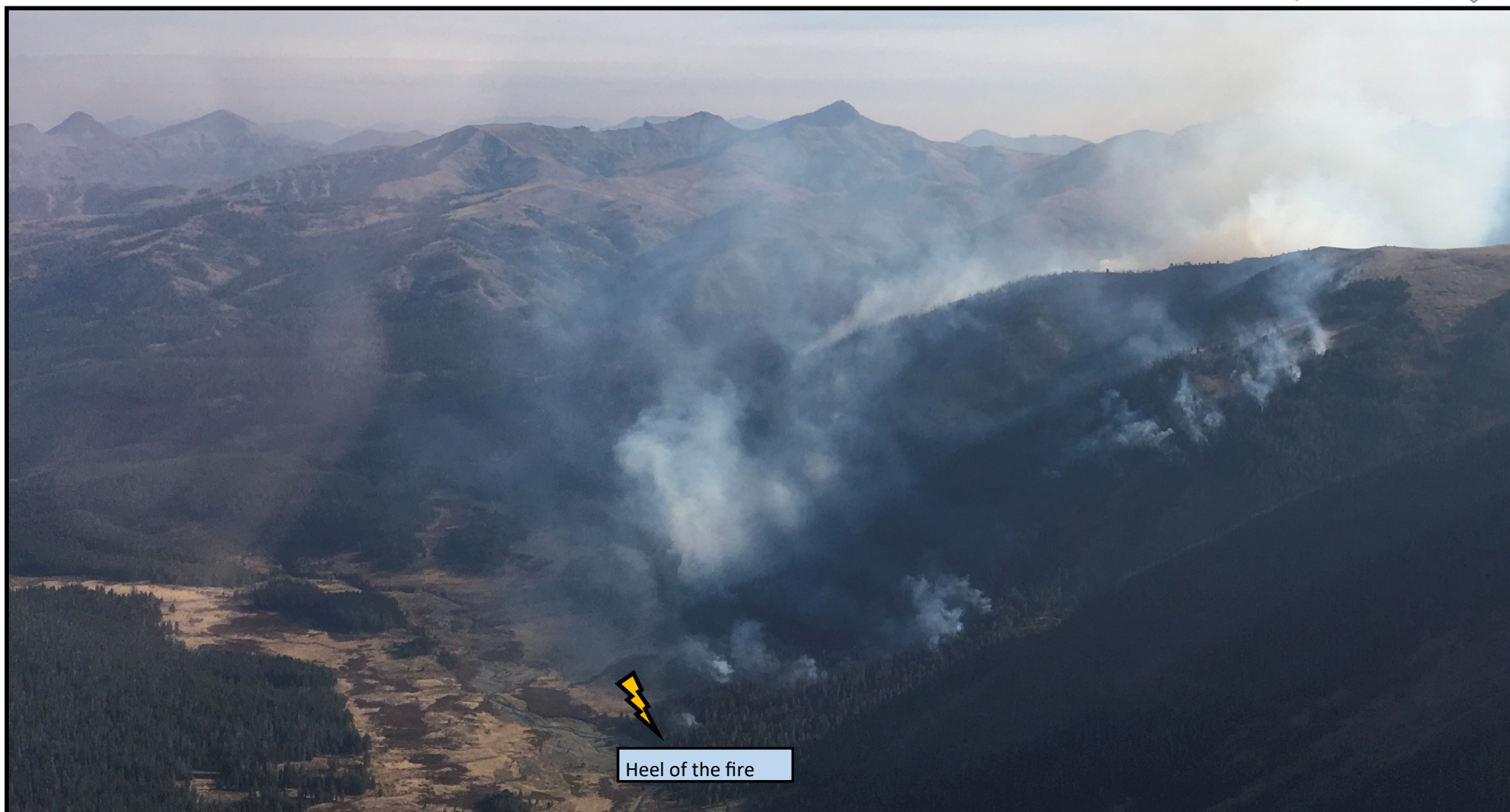


Yellow Mountain Fire



Fire Update: September 29, 2018

Current Size: 516 acres

Closures: None

Safety: Use caution when in the fire area. Watch for wind events contributing to fast-moving fire, torching trees, rolling debris, ash pits, and poor visibility due to smoke. As with any wilderness adventure, use situational awareness to keep yourself safe.

Location: West aspect of Yellow Mt., Teton Wilderness. East of Thorofare Trail #6059. T 47W, R 108N, SEC 16, Latitude 44.04395 N Longitude 109.8171



The Yellow Mountain Fire is in the Thorofare River drainage of the Teton Wilderness on Blackrock Ranger District. On Friday, September 28, fire activity increased in response to hot, dry weather that has been established across western Wyoming for the past several days. During the past eighteen days, the 13-acre fire had been moderately active in mature lodgepole pine at the base of a west-facing timbered slope of Yellow Mountain. On Friday afternoon, the fire made an uphill run, spotted over the adjacent ridgetop, and became established on the east-facing slope. It is now estimated to be 516 acres. The fire remains south of the confluence of Valley Fork and Bruin Creek and east of the Thorofare River and Thorofare Trail. Smoke was visible from as far away as Cody, Wyoming, Friday. Fire activity could increase again Saturday afternoon, resulting in another highly visible smoke column. Two firefighters are on scene, providing information to hunters and the closest outfitter, relaying fire-behavior and local weather information to fire management specialists, and implementing a point-protection strategy of the outfitter camp near the Woody Creek and Thorofare River confluence.

Fire managers have determined that a point-protection strategy is best for this lightning-caused wildfire. With a point-protection response strategy, firefighters protect specific assets or highly valued resources from the wildfire without directly halting the overall spread of the wildfire. Fire managers consider exposure to firefighters, the values that are at risk, and in the case of the Yellow Mountain Fire, the impacts to recreationists and Teton Wilderness values. The point-protection strategy was identified as the best balance to support wildlife-habitat enhancement and wilderness values per Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan and National Wilderness Act of 1964.

Fire history has not been recorded in this portion of the Thorofare drainage for more than 80 years; consequently, this fire will increase age diversity and stand structure of trees in the area. Allowing fire to consume dead and down trees will recycle some of the area's dead vegetation, return nutrients to the soil, and open the forest floor for new growth, enhancing wildlife habitat in the area.

The fire is east of Thorofare Trail #6059. There are no trail or area closures in effect. However, visitors should use caution and stay alert as hot, dry, windy weather can result in active fire behavior, such as torching trees, running fire, and spot fires.

For fire information, go to tetonfire.com, monitor the Bridger-Teton Facebook page (facebook.com/BridgerTetonNF/), or call 307-739-5424 or 307-543-3900 (Blackrock Ranger Station).